



CRIMINAL ALIEN GANG MEMBER REMOVAL ACT (H.R. 3697)

// REP. BARBARA COMSTOCK (R-VA)

Background:

- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has found that membership of violent transnational gangs is comprised largely of foreign-born nationals.
- In Fiscal Year 2016, over 2,000 criminal aliens removed by ICE were classified as suspected or confirmed gang members. And from Fiscal Years 2016 through 2017, ICE Homeland Security Investigations agents made over 8,000 gang-related criminal arrests, leading to over 2,600 convictions.
- According to the Department of Justice, MS-13, a transnational gang that is notoriously violent and comprised of members mostly from Central America, has 10,000 members inside the United States and 40,000 members worldwide.
- MS-13 originated in Los Angeles in the 1980s and now engages in gang activities in at least 40 states and the District of Columbia. Communities in Boston, New York, Virginia, and the Washington, D.C. metro area have been particularly hard-hit by MS-13 violence. MS-13 members are known to be extremely violent, often killing their victims with machetes.
- Currently, it is not possible to deport gang members until they are convicted of an independent crime.

Bill Summary:

- Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), Congressman Peter King (R-N.Y.), Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee Chairman Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho), and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) introduced the *Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act* (H.R. 3697) to combat gang violence by criminal aliens and enhance public safety.
- In order to protect Americans from violent gangs, the *Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act* ensures that alien gang members are kept off our streets by barring them from coming to the United States and detaining and removing them if they are criminal gang members or participate in gang activity.
- Additionally, the bill ensures that criminal alien gang members are not eligible for immigration benefits, such as asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, and temporary protected status, which are reserved for those around the world most in need of protection.